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of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION OF
AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 21 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am pleased to transmit herewith the press release issued by the fifty-fifth session of the Ministerial Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Arabian Gulf, held in Riyadh on 10 and 11 June 1995.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 28, 42, 44, 56 and 97 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jassim BUALLAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/50/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Press release issued by the fifty-fifth session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held at Riyadh on 11 June 1995

The Ministerial Council held its fifty-fifth regular session on 10 and 11 June 1995 at the headquarters of its secretariat in Riyadh. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, current Chairman of the Ministerial Council, and attended by the following:

His Excellency Mr. Rashid Abdullah al-Nuaimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates;

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

His Royal Highness Haytham Bin Tarek al-Said, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman;

His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jasim Bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar; and

His Excellency Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, First Deputy President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.

The Ministerial Council took the opportunity offered by the fourteenth anniversary of the inception of the praiseworthy work of the Gulf Cooperation Council aimed at realizing the lofty goals of the Supreme Council and the peoples of the States of the Cooperation Council regarding security, stability, development and prosperity, in order to present sincere congratulations to the royal personages and heads of State of the Cooperation Council and their peoples.

The Council commended the fraternal meeting between the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia and His Excellency Lieutenant General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen. It welcomed the results of the meeting, which were in the best interests of the two neighbouring, fraternal countries and of the States of the region and would strengthen and uphold security, stability and peace in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf region.

The Ministerial Council also took the opportunity to congratulate the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Yemen on having completed the demarcation of their common border, an achievement which represented an important and positive step reinforcing the security and stability of the region. The Council similarly expressed the wish that the two fraternal countries would succeed in any undertaking of mutual benefit to their two peoples.

The Council studied the progress made by Iraq in implementing the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait. It noted that Iraq had not yet fulfilled certain basic aspects of its international obligations in accordance with resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant resolutions, such as those concerning the release of Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees, the return of all property and the duty to pay compensation.

In that connection, the Ministerial Council insisted that Iraq should complete the implementation of the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression and abstain from any act of aggression or provocation, in compliance with resolution 949 (1994). In this context, it expressed its great appreciation of the stance taken by Member States in the Security Council and the efforts they had made in order to ensure the implementation of all relevant international resolutions. The Council also welcomed the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 986 (1995), concerning the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people.

The Council expressed its profound regret that the Iraqi Government had refused to implement resolution 986 (1995) or make use of the temporary arrangements provided for therein, which were intended to prevent any further deterioration of the humanitarian situation of the Iraqi people and to alleviate its suffering, for which the Iraqi Government bore the full responsibility, in view of its rejection firstly of Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991), and subsequently of resolution 986 (1995). The Council renewed its expression of sympathy with the fraternal Iraqi people in its present distress. Similarly, it once again expressed its desire for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

The Ministerial Council also studied recent developments in relations between the States of the Cooperation Council and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the issue of its occupation of the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which belong to the United Arab Emirates. It expressed its deep regret at the Islamic Republic of Iran's failure to respond to the repeated and sincere invitations of the United Arab Emirates to seek a peaceful solution to that issue. It also expressed its concern at the fact that the Iranian Government was continuing to take steps intended to consolidate its occupation of the three islands, which constituted a violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, the principles of international law, the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the principles of good-neighbourliness and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States of the region.

The Council reiterated its firm position in support of the United Arab Emirates and reaffirmed its sovereignty over its islands, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. The Council also reaffirmed its complete and absolute support for all the peaceful measures taken by the United Arab Emirates to re-establish its sovereignty over the three islands, and called upon Iran to agree that the dispute should be referred to the International Court of Justice.

The Ministerial Council studied developments in the Middle East peace process since the Madrid Conference in 1991, which had laid the foundations for achieving peace and guaranteeing a just solution through the implementation of

Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978) and the principle of land for peace.

The Council reviewed the progress made in the context of the peace process towards achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region, which would bring about full Israeli withdrawal from the Holy City of Jerusalem and all occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to the establishment of an independent State in its own national territory.

In that connection, the Council expressed its grave concern regarding Israel's continued confiscation of Palestinian land and its building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, thus breaching the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, violating the spirit and the letter of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles and endangering the Middle East peace process.

The Ministerial Council calls on the international community and the co-sponsors of the peace process to take all appropriate measures to prevent Israel from altering the demographic and geographical characteristics of Jerusalem, whose borders must remain as they were before 4 June 1967, and to ensure that Israel complies with the resolutions of international bodies concerning Jerusalem, especially Security Council resolution 252 (1968).

The Council welcomed recent positive developments in the bilateral Syrian-Israeli negotiations and hopes that substantial progress will be made towards ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan. The Council also hopes that real, comprehensive progress will be made on the Lebanese-Israeli track, so that the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon will be ended.

The Council also expresses its concern at the continued existence of nuclear programmes that are not subject to close, effective international inspection and welcomes the decision of the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to establish a zone in the Middle East which would be free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, and calls upon Israel and the other States of the region concerned to submit their nuclear installations to international inspection.

The Council has also followed with great concern and anxiety the continued grave deterioration of the security situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the light of the escalation in acts of aggression by the Serbs, their bombardment of civilians and safe areas in various parts of the Republic, their persistence in the abhorrent policy of ethnic cleansing, their detention of members of the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina and their use of United Nations personnel as hostages and human shields in blatant defiance of the international community and in flagrant breach of international law.

The Council also expresses its great sorrow at the murder of Mr. Irfan Ljubljankic, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and his companions at the evil hands of the aggressive Serbian

militias. It strongly condemns the Serb militias for this foul crime and for their other vicious crimes against humanity committed in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for their defiance of the resolutions of the United Nations and other international bodies and for their endangering of security in the Balkans as a whole. It calls upon the Security Council to take urgent and decisive measures to thwart the aggressive Serb forces and compel them to end their practices against the Bosnian people and the United Nations forces, accept the international peace plan and comply with the resolutions of international bodies; to enable the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to exercise its right to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations; to ensure effective protection of the safe areas; and to bring about mutual and simultaneous recognition among all the new States that once formed part of the former Yugoslavia as a precondition for the lifting of sanctions.

The Ministerial Council reaffirmed its complete support for the resolution adopted on 18 May 1995 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Member States in the Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which called for the holding of an emergency special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to discuss the situation in the region. It also calls on the international community to provide material assistance to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to help it overcome its present difficulties.

The Council expressed its concern regarding the continuing bloodshed in Afghanistan and calls upon all the parties to the conflict to commit themselves to a cease-fire and implement the Mecca Agreement in order to bring peace and national reconciliation to the country.

The Council likewise expressed grave concern about the continuing blood shed in Chechnya and the increasing number of civilian deaths, and again called on the parties the dispute to resolve their differences speedily through dialogue and negotiation.

On the economic front, the Ministerial Council considered the records of the thirty-eighth session of the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation, held at the headquarters of the secretariat on 28 March 1995. It welcomed the measures adopted by the Committee concerning the implementation of the resolutions of the fifteenth session of the Supreme Council regarding the strengthening of economic cooperation within the framework of implementation of the Unified Economic Agreement.